



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, November 1, 2023, 12:30 p.m.

775 Ball Ave – MSUE Room B

Minutes prepared by
Matthew Channing, matthew.channing@kentcountymi.gov

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Chair Dennis Heffron (Agricultural Representative), Vice-Chair Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Secretary Russell Slater (Agricultural Interest), Jessica Marks (Agricultural Interest), Carolyn Johnson (Conservation Interest), Lisa S. Oliver-King (County Commissioner)

Absent: Ed Robinette (Township Interest)

Staff: Matt Channing

I. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Dennis Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

II. Public Comment – None.

III. Approval of the Agenda – Vice-Chair Suzie Reinbold made a motion to approve the November 1, 2023 Agenda. Secretary Russell Slater supported.

Ayes – 4
Nays – 0
Abstain – 0

IV. Approval of Minutes – Vice-Chair Suzie Reinbold made a motion to approve the October 4, 2023 Agenda. Commissioner Oliver-King supported.

Ayes – 4
Nays – 0
Abstain – 0

V. Food System Assessment Presentation – Janelle Vandergrift from the Kent County Food Policy Council recently presented the Food System Assessment to the Board of Commissioners. The

assessment is an early step in establishing a healthy food system for Kent County. In the coming months, a series of focus groups will form and the Agricultural Preservation Board will be invited to partake.

- VI. Land Transfer Navigator Grant** – Jessica Marks made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to accept and appropriate \$100,000 from the American Farmland Trust to cover up to four years to be used on funding the Land Transfer Navigator Program and to partner with Ottawa County in program management.

Ayes – 6
Nays – 0
Abstain – 0

- VII. PDR Cycle 2024 Update** – Staff sent out mailers with the townhall information: Thursday, December 7 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at the Cascade Township library and Tuesday, December 12 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at the North Kent Sheriff Station in Cedar Springs.

- VIII. Staff Update** – Staff updated the Agricultural Preservation Board on recent activities including a follow up meeting in Cascade Township with Chair Denny Heffron, a legislative update of “Drive Safe Bills” referenced in the previous Ag Preservation Tour.

- IX. General Public Comment** – None.

- X. Board Member Updates** – Chair Denny Heffron reported out on a meeting with Administrator Al Vanderberg. During that meeting, the question was raised regarding the possibility of amending the PDR Ordinance to allow Board Members to partake in the program. All other preservation programs around the state allow serving members to sell their development rights. It would be recommended that any Board Members selling their rights would be required to abstain voting.

- XI. Adjournment** – Secretary Russell Slater made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jessica Marks supported.

Ayes – 6
Nays – 0
Abstain - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
775 Ball Ave – MSUE Room B